Shifting of offices of Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies from rented to the Government buildings

996. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the various offices under his Ministry/ Subordinate Offices/attached offices/ Departments are housed in rented buildings in Delhi and outside Delhi; if so, since when;

(b) the name of each office and the monthly rent of each building occupied by these offices along with the date of occupation;

(c) whether it is a fact that his Ministry does not propose to shift these offices from rented buildings to Government buildings; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in negative, what steps have been taken so far to shift these offices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) to (d). The desired information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Mal-practices in the Air Cargo Warehouse

997. SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that various malpractices have crept into the working of the Air Cargo Warehouse of the Central Warehousing Corporation on the Palam-Gurgaon Road;

(b) what has been the approximate increase in the volume and value of goods handled by the Warehouse during the last three years; and

(c) what has been the extent of increase in staff, if any, during this period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) The working of the Air Cargo Warehouse of the Central Warehousing Corporation at Gurgaon Road, Palam has been satisfactory. However, some incidents of pilferage, theft etc. occur now and then. Appropriate action is taken by the Corporation in such cases.

(b) The number of packages handled at the Warehouse increased from 1.61 lakhs in 1980-81 to 4.09 lakhs in 1983-84. Information relating to value of goods handled at the Warehouse is not maintained by the Corporation.

(c) The number of employees at the Warehouse increased from 60 in March, 1981, to 111 in March, 1984.

Increase in the cost of wheat production

998. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat prices have increased due to ban on flour mills to purchase wheat from the open market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that monopoly procurement of wheat by Government is inadequate to meet procurement requirements of the country and also deprives the farmers of proper prices for their wheat products; and

(c) whether Government propose to allow flour mills to buy wheat from the open market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) No such report has been received.

(b) Government agencies procure all Fair Average Quality Wheat voluntarily offered by farmers at support price. However, farmers are free to sell their produce to others at prices deemed appropriate by them.

(c) No, Sir.

Spread of Virulent form of Dysentry

999. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the virulent form of dysentry which has claimed more than 2700 lives in various parts of the country continues to spread despite several preventive measures taken by the State Governments;

(b) whether there are chances of the disease spreading to Delhi and other adjoining States; and

(c) what further preventive measures have been taken to check spreading of the disease in Delhi and other adjoining States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c). Incidence of dysentry was reported from the States of West Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Orissa during this year. On investigation Shigella Dysentry Type-I, E. Coli and Shigella Vibro Cholerae and Shigella Flexneri were found to be organisms responsible for the epidemic in different States. Poor personal hygiene, unhygienic sanitary conditions and contaminated water supply were the main reasons for spread of this disease. The investigations were carried out by the teams from National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Calcutta. On the requests from these States the required quantities of drugs including anti-biotics, ORS packets, Halogen tablets, Disinfectants, etc. were made available to them through the Medical Store Depots.

There are no indication of spread of this disease in Delhi and other neighbouring States. However, the State/Union Territory Health authorities have been advised to keep a vigil on the outbreak of this disease and take necessary preventive and control measures.

Eradication of corruption in Railways

1000. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:

SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of corruption in the reservation of berths/seats, freight operations, etc., in the Railways; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to root out corruption and what progress has been made in introducing computerization at important railway stations in spheres of reservations of berths, seats and also freight operations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Companies on these aspects are being received from time to time.

(b) For detecting and rooting out corruption, full-fledged vigilance organisations exist on all the nine zonal Railways, as also in the ministry of Railways. Apart from investigation into specific complaints, the vigilance organisations on their own, undertake a large number of preventive checks. Staff found guilty of corruption and malpractices are issued deterrent punishment.